

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEXT UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, ROB PORTMAN

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate my good friend from Ohio, Rep. ROB PORTMAN. As you all know, ROB is likely to be confirmed by the Senate to be the next United States Trade Representative. His confirmation means that American companies and their products have a tireless advocate in the global marketplace.

While we all wish ROB the best, it's a sad day for the House of Representatives and the Republican Leadership team.

ROB PORTMAN is a true "people's legislator." From the moment he was elected from Ohio's Second Congressional District 12 years ago, ROB has worked tirelessly for the people of Ohio. He is a member of the Ways and Means Committee and serves as Vice-Chairman of the Budget Committee. His congressional work has done much to benefit the American people.

ROB authored or coauthored more than a dozen bills that passed both Houses and eventually became law. His accomplishments include improving our nation's pension laws, eliminating capital gains taxes on the sale of most homes, restructuring the IRS with significant new taxpayer rights, and in an area that is close to my heart, ROB helped enact legislation that supports community anti-drug efforts. Most recently, he assisted in drafting landmark legislation to create what we now know as the Department of Homeland Security, one of the largest and most significant reorganizations of the Federal government in our nation's history.

Since January 2001, ROB has served as the Chairman of the Elected Leadership for House Republicans. He has been an outstanding and invaluable member of our team in the House.

The list of ROB PORTMAN's contributions to the House of Representatives and the American people could go on and on. The Nation is fortunate to have had his service in the House of Representatives.

I am especially privileged to have had ROB PORTMAN's friendship as well. His character and integrity are unquestionable. His dedication to our country and his constituents is surpassed only by his devotion to his wife Jane and their three children.

It is my pleasure to congratulate the next United States Trade Representative, ROB PORTMAN. I wish him the very best.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF MR. JAMES PATRICK NEWMAN AND ELIZABETH A. WADDEN IN CELEBRATION OF THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY: MAY 7, 2005

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Jim and Betty Newman, as they celebrate fifty years of devotion to each other, to their family, extended family and many close friends. This unbreakable union represents a deep and abiding love, not only for each other, but also for their children, grandchildren and for their community.

Jim Newman and Betty Wadden were both born and raised on Cleveland's Westside. They were married at St. Colman's Catholic Church on May 7, 1955. They moved a few miles west to Lakewood, where together they raised six children: Barbara, Timothy, Dennis, William, Daniel and James. They remain a loving, guiding force in the lives of their children, and also in the lives of their eighteen grandchildren, all of whom remain in the Cleveland area. Jim and Betty instilled a strong sense of kindness, humor and integrity into the hearts and minds of their children. They taught by example, interspersed by Jim's quick wit and Betty's caring nature, offering lessons that reflected their own lives—lives framed by hard work, patience, laughter and enduring strength during difficult moments. Besides commitment to family and community, both Jim and Betty share concern for our country and our world. Jim is a United States Veteran, having honorably served in the United States Army during the Korean War.

Jim and Betty were able to effectively balance the demands of family, work and community, with family as the main focus. Jim is now retired from CEI, following more than thirty years of service. Betty is also retired after working for many years as a member of the Baker's Union with Fisher-Fazio and Rini-Rego's. Today, they remain active within the lives of their family, parish and community. When winter finally breaks, Jim and Betty spend peaceful summer days along the shores of Lake Erie, where they gather with family and friends at their Marblehead cottage.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Jim and Betty Newman, as we join them in celebration of this joyous occasion—their 50th wedding anniversary. Jim and Betty continue to inspire those around them to live life with love, caring and humor, to give back to the community, and to hold family closest to their hearts.

IN SUPPORT OF HARLEY-DAVIDSON INC.

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation on behalf of Harley-Davidson Inc., the only major U.S.-based motorcycle manufacturer and the world's leading seller of large displacement motorcycles. Harley-Davidson was founded in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1903, and has become a significant part of the social, economic, and cultural heritage of the United States. Over the years, Harley has provided thousands of jobs to the people of Wisconsin, with 4,000 Harley employees working in the state today. In addition, Buell Motorcycle Company, a subsidiary of Harley-Davidson, Inc., employs another 200 workers in East Troy, Wisconsin.

We must help manufacturers like Harley-Davidson remain competitive in the global marketplace so that good, high-paying manufacturing jobs are retained in Wisconsin and throughout the United States. Although our nation has seen strong economic growth over the past two years, our manufacturing sector has not fully recovered all of the jobs that it lost as a result of the 2001 recession. In fact, the State of Wisconsin is still down 77,200 net manufacturing jobs since January 2001. The most effective way to address this problem is to bring down the costs of domestic manufacturing so that all companies like Harley are more competitive, more profitable, and can employ more hard-working Americans.

The machines included in this legislation are a vital part of Harley's manufacturing process, but they are not produced domestically. Thus, Harley is forced to pay a 4.4% tariff rate on the equipment they require to manufacture their products in the United States. This bill, which temporarily eliminates the tariff, will bring down Harley's production costs, improve their international competitiveness, and help them keep high-paying manufacturing jobs at home.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress to pass this legislation.

DEEPEST SYMPATHY FOR THE FAMILIES OF LILIBETH GOMEZ AND HARRISON OROSCO

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep sorrow and heartfelt sympathy for the families of Lilibeth Gomez and Harrison Orosco, two beautiful children who lost their lives last week in a school bus accident in Arlington County, Virginia. As a parent, I understand that losing a child produces immeasurable grief that words cannot

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

adequately express. I can only hope that during this difficult time these families and the communities that embrace them will find strength and joy in fond memories of Lilibeth and Harrison.

In newspapers and on television we have been witness to the images of scared parents, forlorn classmates, and the devastation a single accident can cause. These scenes are heartbreaking for everyone. What hasn't been widely exposed, but serves as an equally powerful statement, is the effort of the community to support the Gomez and Orosco families in their time of need. Parents, teachers, students, local officials and other residents in Arlington County and Northern Virginia have demonstrated their love and goodwill by offering sympathy letters and cards, a needed friend for survivors, and thoughtful financial support. The collective strength and love of this community, many of whom didn't know any of the families affected but still wanted to help, serves as a beacon for those struggling with the loss. I have never been more proud to represent this wonderfully caring and diverse community.

Throughout this tragedy, the Parents and Teachers Association of Boston-Hoffman Elementary School has been centrally involved. Providing an outlet for the community to share in their collective grief and express their support, Boston-Hoffman PTA has established a donation fund, extra counseling for students, and a place to send flowers, cards and letters that respects these families' wishes to grieve privately. I greatly admire their noble actions and commend the Boston-Hoffman PTA for filling a needed void during such challenging circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join me in expressing this body's condolences to these families who may never fully recuperate following the losses of Lilibeth and Harrison. In the midst of this tragedy though, we have experienced the Arlington community at its most caring best. This effort, along with the shared memories of these two children, will never be forgotten.

RESPONSIBILITY EVADED

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, it is deeply discouraging that no high-ranking military or civilian defense officials are being held accountable for the terrible abuses of basic human rights that occurred at the prison in Abu Ghraib. The editorial from the Washington Post, which I hereby insert into the RECORD, makes the point very well. The failure of the Bush Administration to hold any high-ranking official in any way accountable for this grave lapse is in itself a deeply regrettable example of dereliction of duty.

[From the washingtonpost.com, Apr. 23, 2005]

TOP OFFICERS IN ABU GHRAIB CASE CLEARED

(By Robert Burns)

WASHINGTON.—Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, faulted by some for leadership failures in the Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse scandal, has been cleared by the Army of all allegations of wrongdoing and will not be punished, officials said.

Three officers who were among Sanchez's top deputies during the period of the prisoner abuse in the fall of 2003 also have been cleared. An Army Reserve one-star general has been reprimanded, and the outcome of seven other senior Army officer cases could not be learned Friday.

Sanchez, who became the senior U.S. commander in Iraq in June 2003, two months after the fall of Baghdad, has not been accused of criminal violations. It is unclear, however, whether the controversy surrounding his role in Iraq will stand in the way of his earning a fourth star. He is nearing the end of his tenure as commander of the Army's 5th Corps, based in Germany.

After assessing the allegations against Sanchez and taking sworn statements from 37 people, the Army's inspector general, Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Green, concluded that the allegations were unsubstantiated, according to officials familiar with the details of Green's probe.

Green reached the same conclusion in the cases of two generals and a colonel who worked on Sanchez's staff.

The officials who disclosed the findings spoke only on condition of anonymity because the results on Sanchez and 11 other officers who were the subject of Green's scrutiny have not yet been publicly released and Congress has not been fully briefed.

The question of accountability among senior Army and Defense Department officials who were in positions of responsibility on Iraq detention and interrogation policy has been hotly debated in Congress. Some Democrats accuse the Pentagon of foisting all the blame onto low-ranking soldiers.

In a statement issued Friday that did not mention Sanchez or other specific cases, Sen. John Warner, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said that as soon as all Pentagon assessments of accountability are complete he will hold a committee hearing "to examine the adequacy of those reviews" and to hear senior civilian and military officials address the issue.

Warner, R-Va., said he strongly agrees with one investigation report that concluded last year that commanders should be held accountable for their action or inaction and that military as well as civilian leaders in the Pentagon "share this burden of responsibility."

The office of Michigan Sen. Carl Levin, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee, declined to comment on the matter.

Asked about public expectations of punishment for senior officers associated with Abu Ghraib, the Army's chief public affairs officer, Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks, said the Army went to great lengths to make its investigations thorough and fair.

In addition to clearing Sanchez, the Army inspector general has determined that there should be no punishment given to Sanchez's former top deputy, Maj. Gen. Walter Wojdakowski; to Maj. Gen. Barbara Fast, who was Sanchez's intelligence chief in Baghdad; or to Col. Mark Warren, Sanchez's top legal adviser at the time.

In an interview Friday, three senior defense officials associated with the Green investigations cited mitigating circumstances in the Sanchez case, including the fact that his organization in Iraq, known as Combined Joint Task Force 7, initially was short of the senior officers it required. They also cited the upsurge in insurgent violence shortly after Sanchez took command and the intense pressure the military faced in hunting down Saddam Hussein.

The three officials spoke on condition of anonymity.

A separate investigation by a panel headed for former Defense Secretary James Schles-

inger concluded that Sanchez should have taken stronger action in November 2003 when he realized the extent of problems among the military intelligence and military police units running Abu Ghraib.

A subsequent Army investigation, made public last summer in what was called the Kern-Fay-Jones report, concluded that although Sanchez and his most senior deputies were not directly involved in the bases at Abu Ghraib, their "action and inaction did indirectly contribute" to some abuses.

Sanchez and Wojdakowski were cited in the Kern-Fay-Jones report for failure to "ensure proper staff oversight of detention and interrogation operations" in Iraq, specifically at the Abu Ghraib prison where Iraqi detainees were physically abused and sexually humiliated by military police and intelligence soldiers in fall 2003.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF OTTILIE MARKHOLT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Ottilie Markholt, loving mother, grandmother, author, dedicated union advocate, community activist, and dear friend to many. Her passing marks a great loss for her family and friends, and also for every member of our American workforce. It was Ms. Markholt's focus, drive and vision, directed at improving and securing worker's rights that brought the plight of the American worker and the labor movement into the light of day.

Ms. Markholt was born and raised in the great northwest, an only child of modest beginnings. As a young child, her family moved from the wild frontier of Alaska to Seattle, Washington. Ms. Markholt, exceptionally intelligent and well-read, rejected the socially conservative ideology present in higher education at the time, opting to quit college and focus on changing the world for the better—especially for the working class. Armed with a passion for social justice, an agile mind, a gift for writing and an unwavering commitment to the cause, Ms. Markholt set off on a lifetime journey of advocating for the struggling working class of America.

Ms. Markholt was no stranger to struggle herself. As a single mother of two young boys, Ms. Markholt survived on meager office wages by becoming an expert gardener and seamstress. She kept her boys well-fed and well-clothed by baking homemade bread, canning fruits and vegetables, making her own butter and cottage cheese, and making their own clothes. Despite adversity, she remained emotionally and physically strong, and her energy and focus served to propel the labor movement forward. From writing critically acclaimed books and articles, to knocking on doors and soliciting membership, to organizing strikes, Ms. Markholt's energy and commitment helped set the labor movement ablaze in the Pacific Northwest.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of the remarkable and exceptional life of Ottilie Markholt. The infinite measure of her heart, combined with her courage, vision and integrity, defined her life and served to lift the lives of countless individuals and families throughout our community,